

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NASSAU 00746 090228 Z

51

ACTION ARA-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 DODE-00

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FM AMCONSUL NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4289

S E C R E T NASSAU 746

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR BF US

SUBJ: GOBI MINISTERIAL THINKING ON BASE RENTAL

REF: NASSAU 744

1. AFTER MY MEETING WITH THE CABINET SECRETARY (REPORTED REFTEL) HAD SETTLED DATES, BAIN SAID HE HAD SOME INFORMAL INDICATION OF MINISTERS' THINKING ON BASE " RENTAL" WHICH I MIGHT WANT TO PASS ON VERY INFORMALLY SO THAT WE MIGHT REACT TO IT DURING OUR NEXT ROUND OF TALKS.

2. MINISTERS WERE THINKING IN TERMS OF AN ANNUAL BASE RENTAL FIGURE OF DOLS 5 MILLION, OR ALTERNATELY OF A GRANT OF SECURITY EQUIPMENT. BAIN POINTED OUT THAT THEY COULD USE THE MONEY TO AMORITIZE (SIC) THE EQUIPMENT OR GET IT DIRECTLY. THIS WAS BEING SOUGHT AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF A GOBI DESIRE TO IMPROVE ITS OWN SECURITY CAPABILITY, SINCE ON INDEPENDENCE THEY DIDN' T WANT TO HAVE TO RELY ON OTHERS FOR THIS. IN CONNECTION WITH THE " BASE RENTAL" CONCEPT, BAIN SAID MINISTERS HAD NOTED THE USE OF AUTEC BY ALLIED SHIPS. WHEN I OBSERVED THAT EXCEPT FOR THE ROYAL NAVY, ONLY FOUR OTHER ALLIED VESSELS HAD USED THE RANGE SINCE AUTEC' S ESTABLISHMENT, BAIN REFERRED TO FUTURE ALLIED USE.

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PAGE 02 NASSAU 00746 090228 Z

3. THE EQUIPMENT LIST COMPRISED:

- 4 LIGHT FIXED- WING AIRCRAFT;
- 4 LIGHT TWO- SEAT HELICOPTERS;
- 4 MEDIUM TEN- SEAT HELICOPTERS;
- A MAINTENANCE BASE FOR THESE AIRCRAFT AND A COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM;
- MAKING UP FOR SUCH VESSELS AS THE UK COULD NOT PROVIDE (PERHAPS FOUR EIGHTY- FOOT PATROL CRAFT). AN AIDE- MEMOIRE ON VESSELS HAS BEEN SENT HMG. WE WILL TRY TO GET A COPY FROM GOVERNMENT HOUSE.
- A FLEET OF 24 RADIO- EQUIPPED, JEEP- TYPE VEHICLES.

4. BAIN ALSO WOULD LIKE FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE ARCHIPELAGO PRINCIPLE, THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AND TWELVE- MILE LIMIT.
SPEAR

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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